

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

OMB-01 DHA-02 EB-07 CU-04 /092 W

----- 112879

R 130840Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5391

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0928

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUB: RENEWED VIOLENCE IN CAPE TOWN TOWNSHIPS

REF: CAPE TOWN 925

SUMMARY. VIOLENCE FLARED AGAIN IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIPS OF LANGA, NYANGA AND GUGULETU DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF AUGUST 12, LEAVING MOST PUBLIC BUILDINGS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY FIRE. AT LEAST 27 ARE KNOWN DEAD AND MORE THAN 100 INJURED. SCORES HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, INCLUDING 76 (WHITE) UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT) STUDENTS AND 17 (COLORED) UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE (UWC) STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER RELATIVE LULL MORNING OF AUGUST 12, RENEWED WAVE OF VIOLENCE HIT BLACK TOWNSHIPS OUTSIDE OF CAPE TOWN LEAVING MOST PUBLIC BUILDINGS, INCLUDING GUGULETU CIVIC CENTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX IN SMOLDERING RUINS. BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD (BAAB) OFFICIAL SAID PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE WAS R650,000 BUT MANY BUILDINGS HAVE YET TO BE SURVEYED AS OFFICIALS COULD NOT GET TO THEM. FIVE HIGH SCHOOLS AND THREE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN SAVED BY MEANS OF 24 HOUR POLICE GUARD. STONING AND BURNING OF VEHICLES HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD
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AND LOOTING OF BOTTLE STORES AND SHOPS EXTENSIVE.

2. PRESS REPORTED THAT 130 POLICE REINFORCEMENTS WERE FLOWN IN FROM WITWATERSRAND. AS OF THIS MORNING (AUGUST 13) EYE WITNESS REPORTS INDICATE POLICE ARE PATROLLING HEAVILY THROUGHOUT AREA AND WORKERS APPEAR TO BE GOING OFF TO WORK IN USUAL NUMBERS. BUSSES ARE NOT OPERATING IN TOWNSHIPS AND WORKERS ARE HAVING TO WALK TO STATIONS OUTSIDE THE AREA. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS THAT AREA HAS BEEN "SEALED OFF" BY POLICE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AUTO TRAFFIC CARRYING WORKERS OUT WAS PROCEEDING NORMALLY THIS MORNING.

3. AT UWC, WHERE RECTOR APPEARED TO HAVE REACHED UNEASY COMPROMISE WITH MILITANT STUDENTS (REFTEL), VIOLENCE ERUPTED WHEN UWC STUDENTS JOINED PROTEST MARCH OF SOME 600 STUDENTS FROM NEARBY BELLVILLE TECHNICAL TRAINING COLLEGE (ALSO COLORED) AND BEGAN STONING CARS ON MAIN ROAD NEAR UNIVERSITY. BY LATE AFTERNOON RECTOR R H VAN DER ROSS CALLED IN RIOT POLICE WHO FORCED MAIN GROUP OF STUDENTS INTO STUDENT UNION BUILDING. FOLLOWING A BATON CHARGE BY POLICE, STUDENTS SCATTERED AND SEVENTEEN WERE ARRESTED.

4. AFTER MASS STUDENT MEETING AT UCT, SOME SEVENTY STUDENTS BEGAN PROTEST MARCH ALONG MAIN ROAD IN DIRECTION OF BLACK TOWNSHIPS. ARMED RIOT POLICE BROKE UP MARCH AND 73 WERE ARRESTED.
WHITE

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